

Friday 20th January 2017

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Assets: Charity History / CEO Biography

For: Immediate Release

- Start -

STOP CSE

AWARENESS DAY 18TH MARCH

Join us in the Fight Against Child Sexual Exploitation

National Charity NWG Network asks all to unite against child sexual exploitation for their **National Child Sexual Exploitation Awareness Raising Day – 18th March 2017.**

Child sexual exploitation (CSE) is a form of sexual abuse that involves the manipulation and/or coercion of young people under the age of 18 into sexual activity.

The National Child Sexual Exploitation Awareness Raising Day aims to highlight the issues surrounding child sexual exploitation; encouraging everyone to think, spot and speak out against abuse and adopt a zero tolerance to adults developing inappropriate relationships with children.

Previous National Child Sexual Exploitation Awareness Raising Day have seen hundreds of events take place across the UK, ranging from poster and leaflet displays to whole authorities embarking on targeted campaigns across public services and shopping centres.

Working with over 11,000 professionals across the UK to help prevent and raise awareness of child sexual exploitation, NWG Network continue to leverage the strength of that network in order to tackle the problem head on.

“The National Child Sexual Exploitation Awareness Raising Day offers an opportunity for focus, for education and for discussion across society. In light of recent news reports it is timely that the 2017 National Child Sexual Exploitation Awareness Raising Day falls on a Saturday, not only will this enable the public campaigning in shopping centre and public areas to reach a larger audience but it will also enable police forces, organisations and projects to focus on the issue of child sexual exploitation and abuse in sports, an opportunity to target the large audiences at football matches and other sporting events taking place over the weekend period and offer safeguarding messages to be delivered to weekend sports activities for children and young people.

Together we can create more positive outcomes for so many vulnerable young people.”

Commented Sheila Taylor, CEO.

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Registered Charity No: 1125632. Company Registration No: 6557851

The National Child Sexual Exploitation Awareness Day has a brand identity in the form of a badge, and dedicated website educating all on the factors of CSE, what it is, potential indicators and how you can help to stop it.

A full suite of marketing and campaign materials is available for partners and supporters to download from their stop-cse.org website.

On the 18th March 2017 NWG Network call for all to unite against child sexual exploitation. Show your support by writing a personal pledge and posting to your social media with the hashtag #HelpingHands to help them raise awareness of CSE.

NWG are committed to the fight against child sexual exploitation and supporting victims and their families who are subjected to this abuse. But they cannot succeed without the support of people like you. Visit www.stop-cse.org to find out more about the National Awareness Raising Day and putting a stop to CSE.

Join the Thundrerclap which last year had a social reach of over 2 million!

<http://thndr.me/pZY3HH>

Help NWG Network to continue to tackle abuse and give victims of CSE a bigger voice. Donate just £3 by texting VOICE to 70007. (* T's & C's apply)

Follow us on Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn for more information and upcoming events.

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* <http://www.nwgnetwork.org/donate-terms-and-conditions/>

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Notes to Editors:

- NWG Network is the only child sexual exploitation (CSE) network working across voluntary/statutory agencies tackling child sexual exploitation, with links across Europe, South East Asia, Africa and USA and Canada.
- NWG Network is committed to practitioner training and raising public awareness; training over 17,000 people about CSE in one region alone.
- The NWG Network has worked with or is currently working with over 80% of all Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCB's) across the UK.
- NWG Network holds approximately 40 events every year that bring a range of organisations together to continually improve how we tackle CSE in the UK and across the world.
- The NWG Network in the UK spans across the UK with 13,000 + points of contact to disseminate information on the issue of child sexual exploitation, into a full range of statutory, voluntary and private organisations.
- Our reach and national oversight allows us to address the issues surrounding CSE from Central Government level all the way through to hotel workers.
- Child Sexual Exploitation happens in ALL Towns and Cities. An Independent report found at least 1,400 cases between 1997 and 2013 (Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Exploitation in Rotherham)
- 35% of all sexual crimes (53,540 sexual crimes in total) recorded in England and Wales in 2012/13 were sexual crimes against children under 16 (Office for National Statistics (2013) In: Crime in England and Wales 2012/13: findings from the British Crime Survey and police recorded crime)
- Research by the NSPCC has identified that 1 in 20 children have been sexually abused, 90% of them by someone they knew. However, of the 43,000 children in England who are subject to a child protection plan at any given time, only around 5% are on a plan for sexual abuse. (NSPCC 2014)
- More than one in three children (34%) who experienced contact sexual abuse by an adult did not tell anyone else about it. (NSPCC 2014)
- Four out of five children (82.7%) who experienced contact sexual abuse from a peer did not tell anyone else about it. (NSPCC 2014)

The NWG Network Charity History

The NWG Network (NWG) is a charitable organisation formed as a UK network of over 13,000 professionals all involved in the tackling of child sexual exploitation (CSE) and Human Trafficking within the United Kingdom.

Our network covers voluntary, statutory and private services and links professionals involved in creating the best response for children and young people and their families who have become subjected to child sexual exploitation.

We not only work to stop child sexual exploitation in the UK but across the world, and are the only child sexual exploitation network working across voluntary/statutory agencies tackling child sexual exploitation, with links across Europe, South East Asia, Africa and the USA.

We offer support and advice, raise the profile of important issues surrounding child sexual exploitation, share national developments across our network, influence the development of national and local policy in relation to tackling child sexual exploitation and continually aim to improve the outcomes for young people and their families.

NWG provides a central resource hub for many aspects of child sexual exploitation, which provides members with the confidence that they are being kept up to date and are provided with the best practise examples to ensure they offer the correct response to victims and families.

Since the network was constituted in 2008 NWG has helped to bring coherency to national policy and the messages surrounding child sexual exploitation whilst disseminating improved practise and providing practitioner training and public awareness. In one region alone, 17,000 professionals have been trained in the prevention of child sexual exploitation and victim support using the NWG toolkit and resources.

The NWG Network works alongside the police and other authorities to improve practise on the ground and encourage wider use of preventative campaigns such as the **Say Something If You See Something Campaign** and the **Say Something Campaign** - developed by young people for young people. We have also worked closely to change and continually improve the way victims are treated by the police and statutory bodies.

At NWG we believe that children and young people should be central to everything we do. We aim to create an environment where the voices of sexually exploited young people can be heard. We ensure that these voices have a direct influence on the development and provision of services that support children and young people who are at risk of, or who have been sexually exploited. We recognise the value of including parents in the decisions and actions taken to protect their children and assist them to create a safer environment for them to live in.

Another key aspect of the NWG Network is our reach and ability to raise awareness of child sexual exploitation issues nationally, all the way from central government level to hotel workers; encouraging the public not to turn a blind eye to abuse that can often be too easily ignored.

Biography | Chief Executive of Operations

Sheila Taylor, MBE

With over 20 years' experience in the voluntary sector and over 15 years understanding and tackling the issues behind child sexual exploitation, Sheila Taylor MBE has dedicated much of her life to helping to protect children from those who would abuse them.

Child sexual exploitation is an uncomfortable topic; one which is easy for society to sweep under the carpet away from discussion. It can be difficult to accept that such abhorrent and predatory crime could be happening on your doorstep, at your local park, to your child.

As the recipient of an MBE for services to children, Sheila has worked tirelessly to raise awareness of child sexual exploitation and human trafficking. Her efforts have not only raised awareness of child sexual exploitation amongst authorities and the general public but have helped to prevent it.

Sheila's extensive experience and dedication to the prevention of child sexual exploitation has also seen her actively involved in criminal cases. Having previously managed projects working first hand with victims of child sexual exploitation, young runaways and several years volunteering with the Princes Trust, Sheila has continually worked to help empower young people to achieve against all the odds.

Sheila Taylor's extensive experience in dealing with and understanding child sexual exploitation and internal human trafficking has made her a leading figure in its prevention, advising on national and local policy informed by practise.

As CEO of the NGW Network, Sheila is extremely committed to working with other organisations, local government and authorities in the eradication of child sexual exploitation and ensuring that those who have suffered at the hands of an abusive adult receive the best possible victim support and care.

In 2010 Sheila was made a Member of the British Empire (MBE) for her work with Sexually Exploited Children.

In 2012 she was awarded an Honorary Master's Degree from Derby University.